1	BEFORE THE
2	ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
3	
4	PAULA JOHNSON)
5	-vs-) DOCKET NO.
6) 09-0193 ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY d/b/a)
7	AmerenIP)
8	Complaint as to billing/charges in) East St. Louis, Illinois.)
9	Thursday, December 3, 2009
10	Springfield, Illinois
11	Met, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m.
12	
13	BEFORE:
14	LISA TAPIA, ALJ
15	
16	APPEARANCES:
17	PAULA JOHNSON 715 North 24th Street
18	East St. Louis, Illinois 62205
19	(Appearing pro se as Complainant.)
20	<u> </u>
21	SULLIVAN REPORTING CO., by
22	Laurel Patkes, Reporter CSR #084-001340

1	APPEARANCES: (CONT'D.)
2	CHARLES DAVIS BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS
3	205 S. Fifth Suite 700
4	Springfield, Illinois 62701
5	(Appearing on behalf of AmerenIP.)
6	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	

1		I N D E X	
2	<u>WITNESSES</u> None	DIDEGE	an o a a
3		DIRECT	CROSS
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13		EVILLITUS	
14	None.	<u>EXHIBITS</u>	
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			

1 PROCEEDINGS

- 2 JUDGE TAPIA: By the authority vested in me by
- 3 the Illinois Commerce Commission, I now call Docket
- 4 No. 09-0193. This docket was initiated by the
- 5 complainant Paula Johnson. This case concerns a
- 6 complaint against Illinois Power Company doing
- 7 business as AmerenIP.
- 8 The complainant, Ms. Johnson, alleges
- 9 several allegations of unlawful business practices
- 10 and outstanding damages in the amount of \$1,128 for
- 11 unresolved business practices and also falsifying
- 12 meter readings and along with other damages.
- May I have the appearances for the
- 14 record, please?
- 15 MS. JOHNSON: Paula Johnson.
- JUDGE TAPIA: Name, address, and phone number,
- Ms. Johnson.
- MS. JOHNSON: 715 North 24th Street, East St.
- 19 Louis, Illinois 62205, (618)874-2836.
- 20 JUDGE TAPIA: Thank you.
- 21 MR. DAVIS: Charles Davis, attorney for
- 22 Illinois Power Company doing business as AmerenIP.

- 1 I'm with the law firm of Brown, Hay & Stephens. Our
- 2 address is 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 700,
- 3 Springfield, Illinois 62701. My phone number is
- 4 (217)544-8491, and e-mail address is
- 5 cdavis@bhslaw.com.
- 6 JUDGE TAPIA: Thank you Mr. Davis.
- 7 No one else is here to enter an
- 8 appearance.
- 9 Prior to going on the record, I asked
- 10 the parties if they were ready to proceed to the
- 11 evidentiary hearing, and Mr. Davis who is the
- 12 attorney for the respondent has a concern, and I
- 13 would go ahead and allow him on the record to state
- 14 what his position is.
- MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 16 As a brief synopsis of the history, in
- 17 I believe late October or early November, AmerenIP
- 18 filed amended testimony and an amended answer to the
- 19 complaint, and we filed a motion for leave to have
- 20 the ability to have that entered on the record.
- 21 A timeline was then set out by the
- court, and eventually the motion was granted, so the

- 1 amended testimony and amended answer was entered on
- 2 record.
- 3 At that point, Ms. Johnson was given
- 4 the opportunity to file amended rebuttal testimony
- 5 within a certain period of time, and then she did
- 6 file the rebuttal testimony on a date which I do not
- 7 have in front of me. I believe it was November 17th,
- 8 but it was before the deadline.
- 9 I'm kind of confused where to go from
- 10 here because the amended rebuttal testimony does not
- 11 really contain any testimony. It does make reference
- 12 to a previous testimony, but it does seek to amend
- 13 her original complaint. Paragraphs 1 and 2 ask that
- 14 new damages be added to her prayer for relief, and
- 15 then later in the same document, additional requests
- 16 are made, and the amount in controversy is increased.
- 17 This appears to be kind of a combo
- 18 testimony and amended complaint. I just think that
- 19 if this is what Ms. Johnson desires to do, and I
- 20 understand she's not a lawyer and isn't familiar with
- 21 the process, that I would ask that this filing that
- she made on the 17th be stricken from the record, and

- 1 if she would like additional time to file rebuttal
- 2 testimony, I would not object, and if she would like
- 3 to file a motion for leave to file an amended
- 4 complaint, that's certainly within her discretion
- 5 also, but I wanted to get direction from the court on
- 6 how to go forward.
- 7 JUDGE TAPIA: Ms. Johnson, your position?
- 8 MS. JOHNSON: Well, any additional damages are
- 9 only damages that accumulated during these
- 10 proceedings, and I went over that with the previous
- 11 counsel, and it's just that I don't have the
- 12 resources and different things to repeat all of the
- 13 procedures and filings that we've already done
- 14 because they've changed attorneys, and as far as the
- damages, they're aware of those. Those are the ones
- 16 that accumulated during these proceedings.
- 17 JUDGE TAPIA: Ms. Johnson, an attempt to add
- 18 damages in your rebuttal testimony is inappropriate
- 19 and it's basically ignored. You have to properly
- amend your complaint, and you didn't do so.
- 21 The issue here is that the rebuttal
- 22 testimony didn't include any rebuttal evidence.

- 1 My question to you is do you want an
- 2 opportunity to -- because, you know, opposing counsel
- 3 is not objecting to you revising your rebuttal
- 4 testimony. Do you want another opportunity to revise
- 5 your rebuttal testimony? That's my question.
- 6 MS. JOHNSON: Well, at this time, the only
- 7 thing I would do is resubmit the exhibits that I've
- 8 submitted prior to.
- 9 So, no, whatever has been submitted,
- 10 that's it.
- JUDGE TAPIA: Okay. Now, you keep referring to
- 12 counsel. Now, you're representing yourself in this
- 13 case.
- MS. JOHNSON: Uh-huh, yes.
- JUDGE TAPIA: And so basically, and I know it's
- 16 costly, but litigation costs money unfortunately, but
- 17 that's how it is. I mean, that's how it goes if you
- 18 represent yourself, okay?
- So let me ask you on the record, the
- 20 testimony or actually the rebuttal testimony that you
- 21 submitted you want to submit as is?
- MS. JOHNSON: Yes, I do.

- 1 JUDGE TAPIA: Okay. So now let me ask the
- 2 parties, are you ready to proceed to the evidentiary
- 3 hearing? Ms. Johnson?
- 4 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, I am.
- 5 JUDGE TAPIA: Mr. Davis?
- 6 MR. DAVIS: I'd be comfortable scheduling an
- 7 evidentiary hearing at this time.
- 8 If anything else arises and she seeks
- 9 to add officially any of these damages to the
- 10 complaint, then I would like the opportunity to file
- 11 a motion to strike or necessary motions, but yes,
- 12 other than that, I would be ready.
- 13 JUDGE TAPIA: Okay. I will state for the
- 14 record that, Ms. Johnson, your additional allegations
- or complaints or damages is inappropriate in rebuttal
- 16 testimony, and basically, it's not being considered
- 17 since your complaint was not actually revised.
- Do you understand that?
- MS. JOHNSON: Well, no, not really, but that's
- okay.
- 21 JUDGE TAPIA: No. What don't you understand,
- Ms. Johnson?

- 1 MS. JOHNSON: Uh, well...
- JUDGE TAPIA: If you need to amend your
- 3 complaint, then you need to amend your complaint, but
- 4 adding additional allegations to rebuttal testimony
- 5 is inappropriate for rebuttal testimony.
- 6 Rebuttal testimony is you rebut the
- 7 evidence that the opposing counsel has presented in
- 8 his testimony.
- 9 So let me ask you again, is your
- 10 rebuttal testimony that you submitted the one that
- 11 you would like to be entered into this case?
- MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
- 13 JUDGE TAPIA: Okay. So we need to decide on an
- 14 evidentiary date, and we're going to go off the
- 15 record so we can all discuss this.
- 16 (Whereupon an off-the-record
- 17 discussion transpired at this
- 18 time.)
- JUDGE TAPIA: We just got back on the record,
- 20 and we discussed dates for an evidentiary hearing.
- 21 The parties are ready to proceed.
- The evidentiary hearing will be

- 1 February 9th or February 10th at 11 a.m. Mr. Davis,
- 2 the attorney for the respondent, will confirm this
- 3 week, and I will send out notice to both parties
- 4 indicating which date the evidentiary hearing will
- 5 commence.
- 6 The evidentiary hearing will be an
- 7 opportunity for the complainant -- Ms. Johnson,
- 8 you'll have an opportunity to make an opening
- 9 statement. At that time, you have to set forth the
- 10 relief you're requesting and a short description of
- 11 the evidence to be admitted into the record.
- I want you to be prepared to describe
- 13 each exhibit. You need to bring each exhibit, and I
- 14 want it marked as, for example, Complainant Exhibit
- 15 A, Complainant Exhibit B and so forth. I want all
- 16 original exhibits to be admitted into the record at
- 17 the hearing. The court reporter will then mark it.
- 18 Also state when the exhibit was filed
- 19 on e-docket, and you can get that information by
- 20 going onto the e-docket system and seeing when that
- 21 exhibit was admitted, or actually not admitted, filed
- 22 into e-docket.

- 1 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
- JUDGE TAPIA: At that time, once that's been
- done, you'll have the opportunity to enter your
- 4 prefiled testimony into the record. You'll have an
- 5 opportunity to make any changes, if any. If not,
- 6 we'll go ahead and enter that testimony into the
- 7 record.
- 8 You don't have any witnesses, so then
- 9 you will make yourself available for
- 10 cross-examination for the opposing party.
- 11 At that time, the respondent will have
- 12 the same opportunity, opening statement, the
- 13 exhibits, all the original exhibits marked ready to
- 14 go. If it's proprietary or confidential, please
- indicate that so that the court reporter will know
- 16 and they will mark it.
- 17 At that time, after he's presented his
- 18 witnesses to testify, you will have an opportunity to
- 19 cross-examine his witnesses, Ms. Johnson.
- MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
- JUDGE TAPIA: Okay. At the close of the
- 22 evidentiary hearing and all of the prefiled testimony

- 1 has been entered into the record, the witnesses have
- 2 testified and all the exhibits have been entered into
- 3 the record or into evidence, I will mark the case
- 4 heard and taken. I'll close the case.
- 5 I will then subsequently write a
- 6 proposed order, and I'll send it out to the parties.
- 7 On the proposed order, there will be a
- 8 date for a brief on exceptions and reply briefs in
- 9 response to the proposed order.
- 10 They will have -- I want to make this
- 11 very, very clear because I believe there has been an
- 12 abuse of missing deadlines in this case.
- 13 The dates on the proposed order are
- 14 going to be strictly enforced. One day late I'm not
- 15 even going to look at it. So please make sure that
- 16 you send it prior to if you have brief on exceptions
- 17 or reply brief.
- Okay. Any questions, Ms. Johnson?
- MS. JOHNSON: No.
- 20 JUDGE TAPIA: You understand the process,
- Ms. Johnson?
- MS. JOHNSON: Yes, yes.

1	JUDGE TAPIA: Okay. Mr. Davis?
2	MR. DAVIS: No questions.
3	JUDGE TAPIA: Then we'll go ahead and continue
4	this matter until February. I will again set the
5	evidentiary hearing today or tomorrow, and then it
6	will be continued to that date at 11 a.m.
7	Thank you very much.
8	(Whereupon the hearing was
9	continued to February 9 or 10,
10	2010 (definitive date to be
11	decided later) at 11:00 a.m.)
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	